

## Hib Vaccine Shortage Worsens -- Please Order Pentacel® Vaccine Now --

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notified the MDPH that our proportions of Hib vaccine will change dramatically beginning in the month of October. Now, more than 50% of our monthly Hib allocation will be Pentacel® (DTaP-IPV/Hib) and the balance as Hib vaccine (ActHIB®).

- MDPH urges **all** providers to please **consider** ordering Pentacel® to preserve our state's Hib supply to maintain the 3-dose infant Hib shortage schedule -- and avoid having to go to a 1-2 dose infant Hib infant schedule (as has happened in other states).
- If some providers don't order Pentacel® immediately, MA's Hib supply may be **depleted** after the first 2 weeks of the month. Then MDPH will have to assign Pentacel® to some practices as part of their Hib allocation.

We ask that sites considering the use of Pentacel® make that decision **as soon as possible**. MDPH staff are available to assist you and your practice with:

- adjusting orders;
- inventory management;
- other helpful suggestion for Pentacel® introduction.

If you would like to begin ordering Pentacel®, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828; or

email us at

[dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:dph-vaccine-management@massmail.state.ma.us)

MDPH has developed a detailed advisory with clinical information about Pentacel®, guidance for the introduction of Pentacel® into your practice and suggested schedules. Our *Vaccine Order Form*, *Vaccine Usage Aggregate Report* and the *Vaccine Administration Record* (dated August 2008) have been modified to include Pentacel®. These documents and other MDPH guidance are available at [www.mass.gov/dph/imm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/imm); then click on 'vaccine management'.